

TEXTILE MACHINERY DUTY SUSPENSION  
LEGISLATION

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would suspend the current duty on ink-jet textile printing machinery through December 31, 1999. I would like to make some brief comments about this bill.

It is my understanding that this machinery is not made in the United States, so there are no domestic producers that are likely to be harmed by this bill. Furthermore, the revenues currently generated by the duty on these machines are under \$500,000 per annum, making it a de minimis amount under budget rules. This being the case, Mr. President, I think my col-

leagues will agree that this bill is not apt to have any detrimental effects on domestic industry or federal revenue.

In fact, I believe such a measure could represent a potential economic benefit for the textile industry. These ink-jet printing machines are used to print patterns and designs on fabrics, and they are indispensable for a large part of our domestic textile industry. They are also extremely costly. It stands to reason that every little bit we can do for our domestic textile producers to reduce their costs of production help them to be competitive in this increasingly global economy.

Mr. President, this is a good bill with no substantial costs involved, and I

want to encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1620

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. TEXTILE MACHINERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

“	9902.84.43	Ink-jet textile printing machinery (provided for in subheading 8443.51.10) .....	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/99	”.
---	------------	--	------	-----------	-----------	-----------------------	----

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date that is 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 or any other provision of law, upon proper request filed with the Customs Service not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, any entry, or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption, of goods described in subheading 9902.81.10 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (as added by subsection (a)) that—

(1) was made after December 31, 1997, and before the date that is 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) with respect to which there would have been no duty if the amendment made by subsection (a) applied to such entry or withdrawal, shall be liquidated or reliquidated as if such amendment applied to such entry or withdrawal.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to establish a bipartisan national commission to address the year 2000 computer problem.

S. 153

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to allow institutions of higher education to offer faculty members who are serving under an arrangement providing for unlimited tenure, benefits on voluntary retirement that are reduced or eliminated on the basis of age, and for other purposes.

S. 442

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 442, a bill to establish a national policy against State and local government interference with interstate commerce on the Internet or interactive computer services, and to exercise Congressional jurisdiction over interstate com-

merce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 512, a bill to amend chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, relating to identity fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1096, a bill to restructure the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the right of medicare beneficiaries to enter into private contracts with physicians and other health care professionals for the provision of health services for which no payment is sought under the medicare program.

S. 1256

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other government officials, or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions in which no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to Federal claims arising under the Constitution; to allow for efficient adjudication of constitutional claims brought by injured parties in the United States district courts and the

Court of Federal Claims; to clarify when government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1287, a bill to assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. FORD) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1580, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to place an 18-month moratorium on the prohibition of payment under the medicare program for home health services consisting of venipuncture solely for the purpose of obtaining a blood sample, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study potential fraud and abuse under such program with respect to such services.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1599, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 65

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 65, A concurrent resolution calling for a United States effort to end restriction on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 71

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, A concurrent resolution condemning Iraq's threat to international peace and security.

At the request of Mr. GORTON, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, *supra*.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 148

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 148, A resolution designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuatrocenenario," the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 155

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 155, A resolution designating April 6 of each year as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 170

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 170, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 1999.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 171

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH), the

Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 171, A resolution designating March 25, 1998, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73—RELATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

#### S. CON. RES. 73

Whereas on a level playing field, United States producers are the most competitive suppliers of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas increased United States agricultural exports are critical to the future of the farm, rural, and overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the opportunities for increased agricultural exports are undermined by the unfair subsidies provided by trading partners of the United States, and by various tariff and nontariff trade barriers imposed on highly-competitive United States agricultural products;

Whereas United States agricultural exports reached a record-level \$60,000,000,000 in 1996 compared to a total United States merchandise trade deficit of \$170,000,000,000;

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a number of outstanding trade disputes with the European Union regarding agriculture matters and the disputes involve the most intractable issues between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the outstanding trade disputes include the failure to finalize a veterinary equivalency program, which jeopardizes an estimated \$3,000,000,000 in trade in livestock products between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the World Trade Organization has ruled that the European Union must allow the importation of beef with growth hormones produced in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has yet to fulfill its commitment under the Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reached as part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

Whereas the European Union has promulgated regulations regarding the use of "specified risk materials" for livestock products which have a disputed scientific basis and which serve to impede the importation of United States livestock products despite the fact that no cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) have been documented in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has hindered trade in products grown with the benefit of biogenetics based on claims that also have a disputed scientific basis;

Whereas these barriers to biogenetic trade could have a profound negative impact on agricultural trade in the long run; and

Whereas there are also continuing disputes regarding European Union subsidies for dairy, wheat gluten, and canned fruits: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) the European Union unfairly restricts the importation of United States agricultural products;

(2) the restrictions imposed on United States agricultural exports to the European Union are the most vexing problems facing United States exporters in Europe;

(3) the elimination of restrictions imposed on United States agricultural exports should be a top priority of any current or future trade negotiations between the United States and the European Union; and

(4) the United States Trade Representative should not engage in any trade negotiations with the European Union to achieve sectoral liberalization unless an initiative to achieve the elimination of unfair restrictions on United States agricultural products is advanced on the same time frame as the sectoral negotiations.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, many of the lessons that we have learned regarding agricultural trade strategy, to change the subject to one that we have been not necessary been talking recently, have taken a lot of time for us to learn. I used to work in this field, the trade field. I worked for the Secretary of Agriculture, and I have been around some of these negotiations.

It took the United States forty years of multilateral negotiations, but in the Uruguay Round, we finally got it right: in order to achieve meaningful agricultural market liberalization, we must link progress in agricultural liberalization to progress in other sectors critical to our trading partners.

Throughout the world, agriculture is one of the most highly protected industries. It is also represents one of the strongest comparative advantages that the United States enjoys. Additionally, the U.S. agriculture industry is a critical building block of this economy, employing 22.7 million people. That is about 17 percent of the total domestic labor force. Agriculture also contributed \$997.7 billion dollars to our economy in 1996. In other words, 13.1 percent of our country's GDP is agriculture-based. Furthermore, a large portion of what we produce in the U.S.—roughly 40 percent—is consumed overseas.

Because agriculture is so critical to the U.S. economy and so reliant on exports, I find it exceedingly troubling, along with Senator GRASSLEY, to hear the recent news reports that the office of the United States Trade Representative plans to pursue a trans-Atlantic trade pact that would not address agricultural issues. The barriers to U.S. agricultural exports represent some of the most significant market access problems that the United States currently faces in Europe. Furthermore, the U.S. is currently engaged in a number of outstanding trade disputes with the EU regarding agricultural matters, and these are among the most intractable issues between our two continents. It is incomprehensible to me that the U.S. would consider entering negotiations that would overlook these crucial issues.

Today I am joining with Senator GRASSLEY in submitting a Senate Concurrent Resolution, which expresses